



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT **BEN HUESO**

District Eight

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Contact: Michelle Ganon
Communications Director

Phone: 619-533-6556
619-980-8429

For Immediate Release

E-mail: mganon@san diego.gov

Council President Sponsors *United for a Hate Free San Diego Day*

SAN DIEGO - Council President Ben Hueso is proud to sponsor a resolution that names March 10, 2009 **United for a Hate Free San Diego Day**. His action supports a larger grassroots effort by a coalition of 52 faith and community leaders and other organizations to decrease the incidence of hate crimes in San Diego.

The group's goal is to replace prejudice with a celebration of diversity. "A hate crime against an individual or group is an affront to everyone," says Hueso. "All of us suffer if even one person or group is persecuted for their nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation or other imagined deficiency."

United for a Hate Free San Diego wants to raise public awareness of the disturbing upward trend in hate crimes, educate the public on how these crimes affect our communities, and empower the public to become part of the solution. They especially emphasize education for youth, as most hate crimes are committed by those under the age of 21. "Our families, businesses and schools must cultivate a more accepting and welcoming environment," says Hueso. "In many ways, our city's strength lies in its diversity and complex cultural resources."

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